

NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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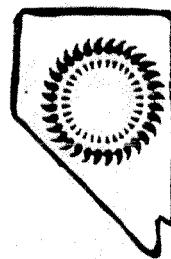
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SYNOPSIS & WINTER 1994-95 SUMMARY

March was another wild and woolly weather month, in a winter of "rollercoaster wetness". A wet November, dry December, wet January, dry February, and wet March, would seem to lead to a forecast for a dry April! Record snows and cold in some areas in November, were followed by a dry-in-the-north and very wet-in-the-south December. January was the wettest first month of record at several locations with 5-6 times normal precipitation and unusually mild temperatures. February was the warmest of record at many locations and unusually dry Statewide. Then came March with record wetness at many sites --with lots of snow, mild temperatures and strong winds.

In summary Winter 1994-95 was the warmest of record over much of the Silver State, along with unusual wetness in all but parts of the Northeast and Central areas. In the Far West it was only the second wet Water Year (1992-93 was also wet) in the past 9 years. The coldest month "averagewise" was November with winter's coldest a -32 degree reading at Wildhorse Reservoir on the 22nd. March brought over a foot of precipitation to some Sierra Nevada eastside locations, as well as in the Mt Charleston area near Las Vegas with 5-7" of that in 24 hours (e.g. 6.88" at Lee Canyon)!

TEMPERATURE

This is one to tell your grandchildren about. It seemed that a cold winter was ahead when November started off with some record lows. But that was it. No more records. No more winter-like temperatures. The December - March period was the warmest on record at several locations. February was so warm that March averaged cooler, even though March temperatures were near-normal Statewide! The mercury did manage to reach 89 degrees at the Clark County Fire Department in Laughlin and 86 at the Overton Power Company in mid-March, but those numbers were far off the sizzling 101 at Rioville, now submerged under the Colorado River, in March 1903.

With warmth being the rule cold numbers were hard to find. A -5 at Ruth (Dale Crafts), -2 at Lee Canyon and Diamond Valley and 0's at Pham Parker's Manhattan weather station and Wildhorse Reservoir were the lowest. Aury Smith also had 4 at Vya and Tom Kneifel 5 at Belmont.

PRECIPITATION

All the talk about March wetness seems strange to Larry Mayne at Candelaria, where only .02" could be found in the gage. Hawthorne and Dyer weren't much better off with .26 and .28, respectively. However, the BIG STORY was the one foot plus of precipitation that fell in some areas in the Far West and South. For example, on Mt Charleston, Lee Canyon (Steve Brittingham) had 13.75" and 31" of snow, and Kyle Canyon (Nevada Division of Forestry) 11.23" and 32" of snow with about 1/2 of those totals coming in one 24 hour period (11th)! In the Tahoe Basin, Daggett Pass (Fire Station #1) had 13.12", Incline Village (Ed Coppin) 10.12" and Glenbrook Fire Station 9.16". Some other big numbers from the Far West were 11.46" at Woodfords (Norris Barsumian), 10.21" at Verdi, 9.29" at Sheridan Acres (George Uebele), 8.80" at Genoa (Don Keagy) 7.72" at Mogul (Betty Baglin), 7.84" at Reno Mayberry (Paul Page) and 5.94" at China Springs (Grant Gardner). The 5.93" at Carson City Fire Department was the wettest March of record, blasting by the 4.79" in March 1938. Records there are from 1880-1906 and 1923 to date. Minden had 5.17" breaking the old March 1975 total of 3.46". Carson Valley residents also suffered through the wettest March day when 1.92" fell on the 11th. The old Minden record 24 hour total was 1.83" set in 1952. Records began in 1906, with Ted Hendricks the present official observer.

Some other new March records were, Ruth with 4.00", and the old record 2.54" in 1945. Records began 105 years ago, Beatty, with 3.50 at The Boiling Pot Ranch, beating the 2.36" record of 1952, with about an 80 year local record, and at Smokey Valley (State Highway Department), when the 3.27" also shatters the record. Also of note was the 2.87" at the Reno National Weather Service, the second wettest in 125 years of record, losing out only to the 4.15" total in March 1907.

All this seems like a lot unless you are a Soda Springs, California resident, where March brought a record 32" of precipitation, which included 170" of snowfall and a maximum snowpack of 16 feet on the 24th!

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

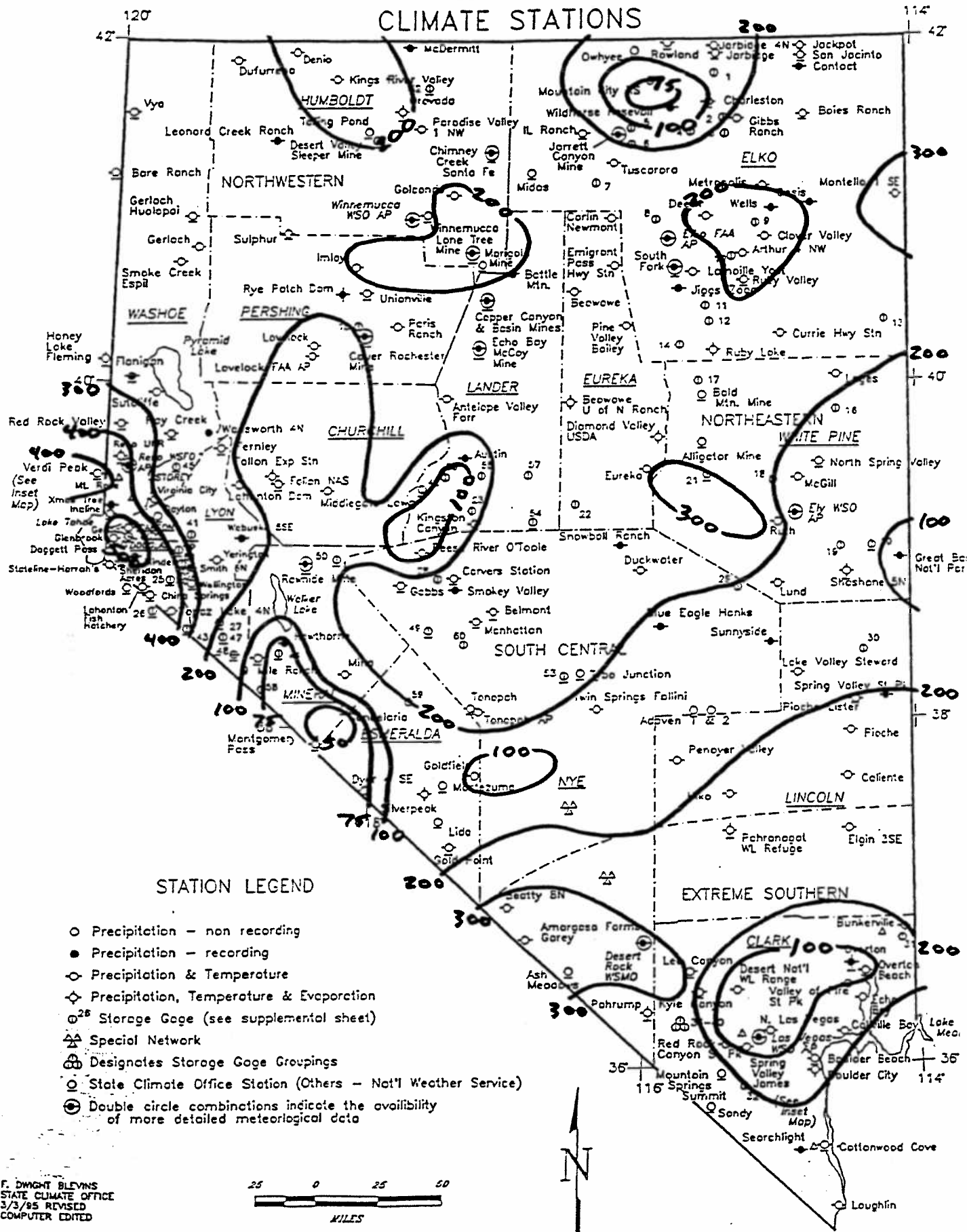
Sunshine hours were well below normal this month, with wind speeds averaging well above normal. Wind gusts between 80 and 100 mph were recorded at some Sierra Eastside locations, with only minimal damage.

Evaporation was measured from only 4 pans as winter ice was still a problem. Evaporation totaled 3.21" at Bob Bransford's Shoshone station, 5.45" at Overton and 2.90" at Honey Lake Fish & Game, all below normal.

John W. James
State Climatologist

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION
MARCH 1995

NEVADA CLIMATE STATIONS



STATION LEGEND

- Precipitation - non recording
- Precipitation - recording
- ⊙ Precipitation & Temperature
- ⊕ Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation
- ⊗ Storage Gauge (see supplemental sheet)
- △ Special Network
- ⊗ Designates Storage Gauge Groupings
- ⊙ State Climate Office Station (Others - Nat'l Weather Service)
- ⊕ Double circle combinations indicate the availability of more detailed meteorological data

OCTOBER 1, 1994-
MARCH 31, 1995

CLIMATE STATIONS

STATION LEGEND

- Precipitation - non recording
- Precipitation - recording
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- Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation
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PRECIPITATION ISOTHERMS (INCHES)

100
150
200
250

Counties: HUMBOLDT, NORTHWESTERN, WASHOE, PERSHING, ELKO, LARIMER, EUREKA, CHURCHILL, LYON, WHITE PINE, SOUTH CENTRAL, MINERAL, ESMERALDA, NYE, LINCOLN, CLARK, EXTREME SOUTHERN.

Major Cities and Towns: Reno, Carson City, Elko, Primm, Mesquite Lake, Searchlight, Cottonwood Cove, Laughlin, Boulder City, Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Sparks, Gardnerville, Overton, Prater Beach, Echo Bay, Callville Bay, Lake Mead, Boulder Beach, Spring Valley, St. Pk., Pioche, Caliente, Penoyer Valley, Hiko, Pahrump, Amargosa, Lee Canyon, Kyle Canyon, Red Rock Canyon, Mountain Springs, Sandy, Searchlight, Cottonwood Cove, Laughlin.

Other Features: Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, Toiyabe National Monument, Great Basin Nat'l Park, Lake Valley, Spring Valley, Pioche, Caliente, Penoyer Valley, Hiko, Pahrump, Amargosa, Lee Canyon, Kyle Canyon, Red Rock Canyon, Mountain Springs, Sandy, Searchlight, Cottonwood Cove, Laughlin.

Scale: 0 to 50 Miles

North Arrow

F. DWIGHT BLEVINS
STATE CLIMATE OFFICE
3/3/95 REVISED
COMPUTER EDITED